

IN CELEBRATION OF BEATRICE
COHEN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Beatrice Isabel Cohen, the pride of New York State.

Born on February 24, 1911, in Bronx, New York, Bee grew up with a deep love and appreciation for her family, community and country. Forced to obtain employment as a teenager due to the loss of her father, she secured a job with a women's coat manufacturer at the age of 16 to help support her family, while also excelling as a champion amateur handball player. Five years later, she married her boss, Max Cohen, and continued to work by his side for more than 50 years. Bee and Max raised two sons, Joseph and Ronald.

Friends and family of Bee would tell you that she always looks at the good in people. Her uplifting attitude is contagious, and has spread to her family, friends and neighbors—many of whom, and their parents, were not even born when Bee moved into her current apartment on the West Side of Manhattan shortly after World War II.

In Bee's 100 years, she has lived through some of the most precariously challenging, exultant and remarkable eras. Yet, she has always kept up with the culture of the times. As a child, she listened to a crystal radio; today she views international programming on a plasma television with stereo sound. She has been a pillar of reliability to her entire family by showing love, warmth and guidance to her two sons, two grandsons and their wives, five great-grandchildren, and her many nieces and nephews.

For her devotion to her family and her country, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to please rise and join me in honoring Beatrice Isabel Cohen on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

BRETT BRUNNER TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brett Brunner of Dolores, Colorado, for his exceptional performance as a cadet of the United States Air Force Academy. Mr. Brunner recently was named the Cadet Wing Outstanding 3rd Class Cadet of Fall Semester 2010, which is awarded to the most impressive cadet for each class. Academics, athletics and military duties are all considered before the recipient is selected from a list of about 1,200 cadets.

Mr. Brunner excelled in every category. He owns a 3.8 GPA as a civil engineering major at the Academy. In addition, he is on the skydiving team working towards a jump master position so that he can teach others how to skydive. Physically, he is also a top performer, missing out on a perfect score by mere points. As a high school baseball and wrestling star he showed the capacity for leadership at a young age. His ability to lead has clearly

translated to his undergraduate pursuits as Mr. Brunner inspires those around him to achieve their best by striving towards perfection himself.

Mr. Speaker, I join the U.S. Air Force Academy in recognizing Brett Brunner for his outstanding achievements and quiet leadership at one of the country's top institutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 148, 149, and 150, I missed the vote due to transportation delays. Flights out of Corpus Christi were delayed, causing me to miss my connect in Houston.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

NEVER FORGET OUR VIETNAM
VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have just reintroduced legislation intended to honor the service and sacrifice of many of the members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, the "In Memory Medal for Forgotten Veterans Act" (H.R. 540).

Those so recognized are veterans who have died as a result of their service in the Vietnam war but who do not meet the criteria for inclusion on The Wall of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund has a program called "In Memory" which has raised money for a plaque that has been placed near The Wall. The plaque honors "those who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service." No names are on the plaque, but all names are kept in the "In Memory Book" at a kiosk near The Wall, and families can order a copy.

My bill adds to this recognition by presenting the families of these veterans with a medal, to be known as the "Jesus (Chuchi) Salgado Medal" to be issued by the Secretary of Defense. Chuchi Salgado was an outstanding individual who lived in my congressional district, whose exposure to Agent Orange ultimately led to his death. His relatives continue to live in my district.

Because of the boundaries that have been set for the names to be placed on The Wall, Chuchi and many, many other Vietnam veterans are not honored in this manner. Now, with new veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, we are all taking a second look and a closer look at how veterans from past wars have been treated. While we must care for our newest veterans, we must also take this opportunity to do right by veterans of Vietnam, along with those of other past wars and conflicts.

I invite my colleagues to join with me in honoring these veterans. It is critical that we remember those who have fought so gallantly and sacrificed their lives for our freedom!

RAY WRIGHT AND DOUG SHRIVER
TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ray Wright and Doug Shriver of Alamosa, Colorado, for their agricultural, educational and commercial efforts to conserve and protect the state of Colorado. Both men recently passed away due to a tragic accident, a loss for both my state and this country.

Doug Shriver served on a number of boards and committees while he simultaneously volunteered for other commissions. Among other pursuits, he was the vice chair of the Rio Grande Roundtable, the director and president of the Rio Grande Water Users Association as well as director of the Lariat Ditch Company. He also served as a board member for the Colorado Ground Water Commission.

Ray Wright was also integral in conservation in Colorado and an avid supporter of the State's agri-business. Mr. Wright was a long-time farmer and leader in the effort to protect water rights. One of his most important contributions was developing a locally controlled mechanism designed to protect water rights. It's success translated to much larger districts as well, and ensures Colorado's future water rights.

In memory of both men, their colleagues created The Shriver/Wright Agricultural Endowment, which supports the agri-business program at Adams State College in Alamosa. The endowment provides scholarships and other forms of support for the school. Water rights will continue to be a vital issue in the Southwest part of the country and the work done by Mr. Wright, Mr. Shriver and the young people who follow them will be of great importance.

Given the invaluable contributions Doug Shriver and Ray Wright made to the state of Colorado, I feel it is fitting that this body recognizes them for their lifetime of service.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO CONVERT THE FOURTH TEMPORARY JUDGESHIP FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII TO PERMANENT JUDGESHIP STATUS

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce a bill that would convert the fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii to permanent judgeship status.

The fourth temporary judgeship for the District of Hawaii was created in 1990 by Public Law 101-650. Although the judges appointed to temporary judgeships have lifetime appointments, legislation creating temporary judgeships usually specifies that the first vacancy in the district cannot be filled after a certain date. In the 1990 bill, this time frame was determined to be ten years after each temporary judgeship was filled. That meant that Hawaii could not fill a temporary vacancy occurring after October 2004.

Currently, the District of Hawaii has four active judges. However, if any of these judges become inactive, by taking senior status or otherwise, the district will not be able to replace that judge because of the ten-year limitation, which has long passed. This would place a great burden on not only the three remaining active judges, but also on the litigants themselves, especially civil litigants. Due to the right to speedy trial, felony cases regularly bump civil trials off the calendar, leading to long delays to get to court for civil litigants. Civil cases include disputes involving personal injury, civil rights, the environment, business, and other non-criminal matters.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this and other initiatives that will address our need for additional federal judgeships across the country.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO MEMBERS
OF THE IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of international religious freedom and to voice my concern for the seven Baha'i leaders, known as the Yaran, who were unjustly convicted by the Iranian regime and sentenced to 10 years in prison for their religious beliefs.

As documented by years of reported abuse and discrimination by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, and other international organizations, government respect for religious freedom and human rights in Iran is steadily declining. According to the State Department's 2010 International Religious Freedom report, since the 1979 Islamic Revolution over 200 Baha'is have been killed, many have been imprisoned, and thousands more have faced regular discrimination and public admonishment by the Iranian government.

Government rhetoric and actions create an oppressive environment for religious minorities in Iran, particularly the Baha'i, and instances such as the incarceration of the Yaran provide ample evidence of this. As a member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, my colleagues and I have worked to bring attention to these injustices and hold human rights violators accountable. The Iranian Baha'i are deeply devoted to peace and unity and their bravery in the face of injustice encourages others to work for universal human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. government and the international community must continue to speak out against these oppressive acts. I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in denouncing the imprisonment of the Yaran and partner with the international community to insist Iran release these individuals, strengthen the basic rights of their citizens, and provide an environment in which individuals can express their religion without fear of persecution or intimidation.

LUIS NAZARIO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Luis Nazario of Pueblo, Colorado, for pioneering the use of technology in education. Mr. Nazario became a leader among Colorado's community colleges and online education programs before use of the internet for teaching purposes was popular.

As an English teacher, Mr. Nazario has been commended not only by his school, Pueblo Community College, but also by the Colorado Community College System at large. Students have broader access to educational tools both in the classroom and online in large part because of his efforts. Colorado stresses the importance of education for all of its citizens and Mr. Nazario is an example of innovation in that pursuit.

Mr. Nazario graduated from Inter American University in Puerto Rico with a degree in English Literature. He emigrated to the United States to receive his master's degree as a teacher of English to other languages from New York University. He then moved to Colorado to begin teaching in the state's community college system. Mr. Nazario continues to teach English and foster learning among students who speak English as a second language in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Luis Nazario for his exceptional commitment to the emerging presence of technology in education. I thank him for dedicating himself to education and reaching out to Colorado's youth.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY MAYOR
GERALDINE TOUSANT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you and my colleagues today to recognize Deputy Mayor Geraldine Tousant. Geraldine has served the city of Gary for many years and for her efforts, she was honored at an event celebrating her 50 years of service to the city on Saturday, August 14, 2010, at the Gary City Hall. Her complete dedication and endless enthusiasm put forth toward her community have allowed her the opportunity to enrich the lives of countless people.

Geraldine was born in Ensley, Alabama, and moved to the city of Gary when she was three years old. She graduated from Gary Roosevelt High School in 1957, and soon after married the late Marshall Tousant. The couple was happily married for nearly 51 years. Geraldine has three children and is the proud grandmother of five. Amidst her time in office, Geraldine courageously battled breast cancer, and I am happy to report that she is a twenty-year cancer survivor.

Geraldine began her service to the city of Gary in 1960 at the age of twenty-one. She started out as a clerk-typist in the city's Department of Redevelopment. Working her way

through the Department's ranks, Geraldine eventually became Director of the Department of Redevelopment. On February 14, 2003, Geraldine was recognized by former Mayor Scott King for her commitment to the people of Gary as he appointed her Deputy Mayor of the city of Gary.

Impressively, Geraldine has worked for seven mayors during her 50 years of service to the city: George Chacharis, my father John Visclosky, A. Martin Katz, Richard G. Hatcher, Thomas Barnes, Scott King, and current Mayor Rudy Clay. Throughout her many years of service, Geraldine has accomplished many impressive tasks, including handling the management and demolition of structures attained in other city agencies and computerizing the city's utility billings and payments.

Today, Geraldine is 71 years young and has no plans to retire anytime soon. Geraldine has said, "I hope my 50 years with the city of Gary have been a role model for other employees." Without a doubt, she has been just that.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Mayor Geraldine Tousant has always given her time and efforts selflessly and has truly been an inspiration to so many people throughout the years. We have all been enriched because of her lifetime commitment serving others, particularly those most in need. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Geraldine on her 50 years of service to the city of Gary.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ANNA MARIA PIER

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Anna Maria Pier in Florida's 13th Congressional District.

In 1911, Will Bean, the son of the first Anna Maria Island homesteader, George Emerson, had a 776 foot pier constructed by the Anna Maria Beach Development Company at the foot of Pine Avenue.

The pier has been in continuous use since then by hundreds of thousands of residents, fishermen, boaters and tourists. In fact, the pier has been named the number one tourist attraction in Manatee County by the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In 1928, the pier was acquired by the City of Anna Maria, which provides for its maintenance.

In 2008, the Anna Maria City Commission designated the pier as an historic structure and added the pier to the Florida Master Site File.

This year, the Mayor of the City of Anna Maria proclaimed May 14, 2011, as the Centennial Celebration Day to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Anna Maria City Pier's construction.

I join the City of Anna Maria in the centennial celebration of this important landmark.